Amendment to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

determining a game parameter, the game parameter serving to control at least one element of a game such that it affects a manner in which the game will be conducted;

determining a range of values associated with the game parameter;

displaying at least one symbol on a reel, each symbol representing a potential value within the range of values associated with the game parameter;

selecting at random at least one of the displayed symbols;

setting an actual value of the game parameter based on the randomly selected displayed symbol; and

controlling the at least one element of the game using the actual value such that the manner in which the game is conducted subsequent to the setting of the actual value is affected by the actual value.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including:

initiating game play using the actual value of the game parameter.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including:

continuing game play using the actual value of the game parameter.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including:

ending game play using the actual value of the game parameter.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the game parameter represents a number of game symbols with which to start a session.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the game parameter represents a number by which payouts will be multiplied for a given number of handle pulls.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the game parameter represents a maximum number of spins allowed before player is ineligible for a puzzle completion bonus.

8. (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the game parameter represents a number of reels used in a game.

9. (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the game parameter represents a number of bonus symbols on each reel which initiate a bonus game.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the game parameter represents a rate of expiration of player collected symbols.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the game parameter represents a rate of accumulation of complementary (comp) points.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the game parameter represents a progression rate of a progressive jackpot.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the game parameter represents a payout for a particular symbol combination.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the game parameter represents a probability of a particular symbol combination occurring.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the game parameter represents an amount of wager required per spin.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the game parameter represents a probability of a player getting into a bonus round.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the game parameter represents a number of puzzle pieces that need to be collected by a player during a puzzle game.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the game parameter represents a probability of bonus round payouts occurring.

19-37. (Canceled)

38.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining a game parameter, the game parameter serving to control at least one element of a game such that it affects a manner in which the game will be conducted, comprises:

determining a game parameter, the game parameter serving to control at least one element of a game such that it affects a manner in which rewards are awarded for the game.